

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 PC-01 TRSE-00

OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /099 W

-----111638Z 025294 /45

O 111615Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2927

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3378

ALGIERS FOR SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, NI

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: GOZ DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

REF: (A) STATE 80428 (NOTAL), (B) LAGOS 3962, (C) KINSHASA 3335

(D) KINSHASA 3370

1. AS REPORTED REF (C), GOZ FOR THE TIME BEING DOES NOT SEEM INCLINED TO TAKE ANY NEW STEPS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT. THEIR GENERAL POSTURE IS ONE OF DOING NOTHING THAT WOULD BE SEEN AS DELIBERATELY UNDERMINING OR TERMINATING THE MEDIATION TRACK, THEREBY KEEPING IT AVAILABLE FOR USE SOME-TIME IN THE FUTURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY SEEM TO FEEL THAT ANY POLITICAL OVERTURES NOW, BEFORE THEY HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR MILITARY POSITION, WOULD ONLY BE INTERPRETED BY THE

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ANGOLANS AS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS OR LACK OF RESOLVE TO EXERCISE THEIR SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO REPEL THE INVADERS.

2. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT MOBUTU WOULD BE PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO ANY FURTHER EFFORTS BY US TO RESTORE MOMENTUM IN THE DIRECTION OF MEDIATION -- AT LEAST NOT UNTIL WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED GREATER WILLINGNESS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO HIS MILITARY NEEDS. THERE IS NO

DOUBT IN HIS MIND REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH WE VIEW
EVENTUAL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH ANGOLA. AT THE SAME TIME,
HE SUSPECTS THAT WE ARE FOCUSING ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM
AS A WAY TO AVOID PROVIDING FURTHER ASSISTANCE. UNLESS AND UNTIL
OUR OWN LEVERAGE HAS BEEN INCREASED, I THINK THE BEST WAY TO
APPROACH THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER PARTIES TO SPEAK
TO MOBUTU. THE NIGERIANS THEMSELVES MIGHT UNDERTAKE TO INFORM
MOBUTU OF THE RESULTS OF THEIR TALKS WITH THE ANGOLANS IN LAGOS
AND TO PROBE REGARDING ZAIRE'S INTENTIONS RE MEDIATION. THIS
COULD BE DONE THROUGH THEIR CAPABLE AMBASSADOR HERE OR, PERHAPS
MORE EFFECTIVELY, BY SENDING AN EMISSARY TO KINSHASA.

3. ANOTHER CHANNEL WOULD BE VIA THE FRENCH, WHO ARE GOING ALL
OUT TO ASSIST MOBUTU MILITARILY AND ARE, THEREFORE, RIDING HIGH
IN HIS EYES. I HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS IDEA INFORMALLY WITH
THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, WHO CLAIMS TO SHARE OUR VIEW FULLY
AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING MEDIATION TRACK OPEN. IN FACT,
HE HAS TOLD ME THAT HE INTENDS TO RECOMMEND THAT GISCARD SPEAK
TO MOBUTU ALONG THESE LINES. (SINCE HE SEEMS TO BE WORKING
DIRECTLY WITH THE ELYSEE, HE ASKED ME TO TREAT THIS MATTER WITH
MAXIMUM DISCRETION; THEREFORE I SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY PARIS NOT RPT
NOT DISCUSS THIS WITH THE QUAI.)

4. NGUZA TOLD ME LAST NIGHT THAT, FOLLOWING OUR CONVERSATION
REPORTED REF (D), HE HAD DISCUSSED FURTHER WITH MOBUTU THE IDEA
OF THE GOZ'S TAKING ADDITIONAL STEPS VIS-A-VIS THE OAU AND THE
UN. NGUZA CONFIRMED THAT MOBUTU FEELS STRONGLY THAT SUCH ACTIONS
SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SHABA
HAS IMPROVED. SPECIFICALLY, MOBUTU IS WARY OF ANY COMMUNICATION
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TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BELIEVING THAT EVEN A LETTER OF INFORMA-
TION WOULD PROVIDE AN EXCUSE FOR CERTAIN COUNCIL MEMBERS TO
CONDEMN OR OTHERWISE RAISE OBJECTIONS TO ZAIRE'S POSITION. NGUZA
SAID, HOWEVER, THAT ANOTHER LETTER TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL
INFORMING HIM OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE MIGHT BE IN ORDER,
AND I BELIEVE HE IS NOW GIVING THIS SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.
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Message Attributes

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